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## **SENATOR JELINEK APPLAUDS RESTORATION OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

LANSING – State Senator Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks, today announced his support for “Priority First!”, a program which restores funding for 34 key road projects in Michigan. The “Priority First!” project will allow local communities to continue critical road projects which Governor Jennifer Granholm has “deferred”.

“Putting off for critical transportation projects for five years in the most needed areas of the state is no way going to help Michigan’s economy, employees or employers,” Senator Jelinek said. “The US-31, Napier Avenue to I-94 transportation project is needed today.”

“Priorities First!” seeks to restore the funding for projects which were part of a long term plan to upgrade Michigan’s transportation infrastructure. These projects have met and passed objective tests on their merits. Gov. Granholm’s surprising announcement to “defer” these programs and re-direct monies to the city of Detroit have provoked an outrage. Local governments and citizens who were planning on these improvements saw the rug pulled out from underneath them by the Granholm administration. Her initiative takes money from the growth areas of the state and funnels it into less needed and less critical repairs for Detroit.

“Local communities have studied and planned for these 34 transportation projects. We can’t just ignore our long-term goals.” Jelinek said. “Priorities First!” sets a sharp contrast between the Senate plan for the future of economic development in Michigan and the Governor’s short-sighted, unidentified plan.

Two public hearing have been scheduled to allow local citizens and governments to make their concerns heard. The first hearing will be conducted, Wednesday, April 30 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hudsonville City Hall Chambers, 3275 Central Blvd., Hudsonville. The second meeting will take place in Pontiac, Oakland County, with a time and location to be announced later this week.